

From: George Risch
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/8/01 1:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the recent settlement proposed between the US Government and Microsoft of Redmond, WA. As I understand the matter, the current settlement does not include any provisions regulation of future access to Microsoft's API calls or descriptions of how the internals of its operating system. This is unfortunate, because Microsoft has been found guilty of being a monopoly and should be required to share these specifications in a free and open way.

In my work and the products produced at the company I work for, not including these specifications could harm future revenue based on our own independent work by forcing us to pay monopolistic tolls required to gain access to these specifications. Its is much like a system in which a train manufacture is not allowed to know the spacing of the tracks without paying an arbitrarily set fee charge by a monopolistic railroad. We know how to build the trains very well, but don't know if they will fit on the tracks. This is especially relevant in Microsoft's case because they can change, at a virtual whim, a little part of its operating system code to make all of our products inoperable.

Please consider adding that Microsoft publish its API calls and descriptions of its OS internals in the settlement, even though it may prolong the effort to close this matter. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,
George Risch

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